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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-second session, 25 February - 22 March 2013**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

GHANA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Ghana's support of recommendations to improve conditions and to reduce overcrowding in prisons, as well as its assurances that these are already being implemented.¹ According to our research, overcrowding is severe, sanitation inadequate, and food supplies and medical care scarce. We urge the government to give immediate effect to these recommendations.

While we welcome Ghana's commitment to investigate cases of attacks on persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity,² we are very disappointed at its rejection of recommendations to decriminalize same-sex relations, and to combat the climate of homophobia and discrimination against LGBT persons.³

Consensual same-sex conduct remains a crime in the Criminal Code, punishable by up to 25 years' imprisonment, and despite constitutional guarantees discrimination based on sexual orientation persists. Discriminatory attitudes are sometimes fuelled by statements by senior officials, such as, for example, in July 2011, when the Western Regional Minister encouraged people to inform on those they believed to be 'homosexual' and instructed the security forces to round up the country's gay population.

Mr President,

¹ A/HRC/22/6, recommendations 125.17-18 (Slovakia, Austria)

² Ibid, recommendations 124.8-9 (Canada, Belgium)

³ Ibid, recommendations 126.16-25 (France, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Norway, Netherlands, USA).

We note that there was only one reference to the issue of housing rights in the review.⁴ This is an issue that deserves much more attention: Amnesty International has documented a range of human rights violations in the context of forced evictions and demolitions of informal settlements in Ghana. In Accra, where many live without security of tenure in informal settlements, including in Old Fadama, over 1,500 people were left homeless in January 2012 when Accra Metropolitan Authority demolished more than 500 houses and structures along the railway line. Residents were given only three days' notice to leave their homes, and were offered no compensation or alternative accommodation. Thousands more are at risk of forced eviction. We call on Ghana to issue a moratorium on mass evictions until legal and procedural safeguards are in place, in line with international human rights standards.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ Ibid, recommendation 125.66 (Thailand)